

the Government has been forced to borrow from countries such as China and Japan, as well as the Social Security program and the United States Postal Service. Republicans have argued that Social Security is unsustainable and is contributing to the debt; however Social Security has run surpluses for decades. The Government has used these surpluses to fund their spending, including the high spending under President Reagan. We cannot continue borrowing from Social Security. Social Security was created to last, without contributing to the debt. The program cannot pay benefits if it does not have the resources to do so. Furthermore, Social Security cannot borrow; therefore it cannot increase the federal deficit. Hence, years of tax cuts and borrowing from Social Security have pushed the program near insolvency. Additionally, borrowing from the Post Office has caused it to go broke. Republicans have called for privatizing the Post Office because it is unsustainable and cannot be subsidized by the government. On the other hand, tax cuts have forced the Government to borrow from the Post Office to make up for lost revenue. This has resulted in the devastation of the U.S. Postal Service.

The biggest amount of spending goes to health programs like Medicare, which accounts for 15 percent of the GDP alone. That is the main reason Democrats supported the health care bill. The Health Care law was meant to bring health care costs down, but Republicans seek to repeal the law. Other developed nations have managed to keep their health related costs low on a single-payer government-backed health care system. We must control the soaring health care costs if we are to decrease spending and the national debt and repealing the health care law is not the way to do it. It is abundantly clear that Republicans only seek to benefit their base of insurance companies.

Tax expenditures should also be on the table when discussing how to cut spending. They include tax breaks on mortgage interest and employer-provided health insurance. Tax expenditures add hundreds of billions of dollars a year to our debt. They decrease the amount of taxes individuals and businesses pay, thereby decreasing the amount of revenue the Government takes in. Moreover, tax credits are also a form of spending, which "fiscally conservative" Republicans claim they want to cut. However in 2009, House Republicans introduced new housing subsidies that gave a \$5,000 credit to Americans that reliance their homes and \$15,000 in credits to those buying homes. These tax credits are a form of spending that Republicans do not have a problem with. If we are serious about cutting spending than we must look at these tax expenditures, which account for more than the total cost of all non-defense programs, excluding Social Security and Medicare. So when we consider cutting spending on programs that benefit the poor and elderly, we should also take a look at tax expenditures, which help the middle class and wealthy.

Democrats and Republicans alike should make a valiant effort to work together in other to save our beloved country. We must look at cutting spending on all programs and not excluding tax expenditures from the list. Moreover, we must increase taxes on the wealthy, so we can stop borrowing from Social Security and effectively bankrupting the program. In

order to balance the budget and decrease the debt, the government must receive revenue. This revenue can only come from increasing taxes. Spending cuts alone will not help this country recover. In fact, sharp cuts can force us back into a recession and will stunt our economic recovery. Therefore the best option is to cut spending gradually, not rapidly like Republicans propose and to increase taxes. Most economists agree that this is the best method to improve our economy and to decrease our debt.

Democratic and Republican voters are in agreement on programs that should be cut and where spending should be increased. Democrats and Republicans support cuts for the highway system, air travel and railroad, medical research, subsidies to agricultural corporations with large farms and defense spending. However, both voters support spending increases for job training, energy conservation and renewable resources, elementary and secondary education, higher education and agricultural subsidies to small farmers. It seems like the electorate is much less polarized than the government.

Mr. Speaker, if Democratic and Republican voters can agree on where spending should be decreased and where it should be increased, than why can't we? At the end of day, we must work together to ensure America's prosperity and the well-being of our nation. This is the only way to get us out of the current economic crisis we are in.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida Atlantic University (FAU) as it marks the 50th Anniversary of its establishment in 1961. FAU is Florida's fifth largest public university.

Through the last five decades, FAU has pursued a mission of delivering top-quality higher education, research, creative activities and civic engagement. Today FAU provides a national model of excellence in serving students across a very large geographical region through a well-developed distributed campus system.

From its humble beginning on an abandoned World War II-era United States Army airfield in Boca Raton, FAU has expanded to include campuses and sites in Davie, Fort Lauderdale, Dania Beach, Jupiter, Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce.

The university is currently serving a record-high student body of more than 29,000 individuals including the founding class of the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, America's newest medical school.

FAU takes special pride in the fact that its student body ranks as the most racially, ethnically and culturally diverse among the 11 institutions in Florida's State University System. Forty-six percent of students classified as minority or international.

In the last 50 years the university has awarded degrees to more than 120,000 alum-

ni. The University and the alumni is a strong engine of economic growth and FAU generates an estimated \$2 billion annually in its six-city service region.

FAU's 10 distinguished colleges offer students the opportunity to pursue more than 170 degree programs on the undergraduate and graduate levels. The students are taught by a faculty of 1,500 skilled and dedicated men and women who possess expertise in their fields and a true passion for passing on their knowledge to the next generation of leaders. Areas in which FAU has earned national recognition include ocean engineering, marine science, business, accounting and public administration.

Long recognized as an outstanding teaching institution, FAU is now claiming a place among America's great research universities. FAU researchers are at work in a host of essential areas, ranging from discoveries in the life sciences to new engineering technologies.

In 2010, the United States Department of Energy awarded FAU's Center of Excellence in Ocean Technology the broader designation of the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center. Researchers at this interdisciplinary center are working to address our nation's energy needs through the development of technology to generate energy from Florida's strong offshore currents. FAU is ranked as a "High Research Activity" university by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

While FAU excels in the sciences, FAU is also a vibrant center of the arts showcasing faculty and student presentations of many kinds, including lectures, plays, concerts and exhibitions. The university also recognizes its role in the community by offering South Florida's retired citizens the opportunity to take a wide variety of interesting classes through the FAU Lifelong Learning Society which happens to be the largest and most successful program of its kind in the nation.

FAU's students, alumni, faculty, administrators and staff can take pride in all that their university has accomplished during its first 50 years as they look forward to even greater achievements in the next decades to follow. This institution is an asset of great value to all Americans and to all Floridians deserving recognition and commendation during their Semicentennial.

RECOGNIZING THE OBJECTIVES OF FINANCIAL AID DAY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the objectives of Financial Aid Day (FAD). FAD reserves the third Wednesday in October to honor the role financial aid professionals across the United States play in helping students realize their dream of attaining a college education.

Today, student aid is under attack, despite the fact that millions of students rely on and benefit from federal student aid each year. In fact, the number of students applying for federal financial assistance increased to approximately 19.5 million in 2010–2011, up by nearly seven million students since 2006–

2007. From school years 1999–2000 to 2009–2010, the total amount of Title IV federal financial aid awarded to students jumped from \$62.1 billion to an estimated \$146.5 billion, an increase of 136 percent.

FAD recognizes that assisting citizens of all ages to attain a higher education puts aid administrators among the forefront of this nation's efforts to compete in the global economy and contribute to the common good. Without such dedicated administrators, an untold number of students from diverse financial backgrounds would not be able to continue their pursuit of higher education due to a lack of necessary information and counseling.

Mr. Speaker, a post-secondary education would be unachievable for many of our nation's students without federal student aid. As such, I welcome the opportunity to honor those who serve these students on a daily basis. I support the goals of Financial Aid Day and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the important role played by financial aid professionals in helping students realize their college dreams.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HERO STREET MEMORIAL PARK

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our veterans and wish to focus in particular on a specific street in Silvis, Illinois. In the town of Silvis, Second Street holds so much history from World War II and the Korean War. On Saturday October 29, 2011 the people of Silvis will be celebrating the 40 Year Anniversary Celebration of Hero Street Memorial Park.

In honor of the brave soldiers who lived on this street and whose families have made the park their own; I introduced a resolution to designate the park on Hero Street as "Hero Street Memorial Park" earlier this year and I am pleased that we are able to honor these brave warfighters.

The brave men who fought in World War II and the Korean War from this little street were the sons of Mexican immigrants to the U.S. and volunteered their lives for their country. When America entered these wars, 78 residents of this street from 35 families helped defend our country and our allies.

Eight of these brave men died for our country. Their names are: Tony Pompa, Frank Sandoval, Joseph Sandoval, Willie Sandoval, Claro Soliz, Peter Masias, Joe Gomez, and Johnny Munos.

In honor of these brave men and their other fellow soldiers who fought by their sides the community renamed this street in May 1967. Four years later a memorial park was built on Second Street and in 2007 a monument was added.

My resolution recognizes the sacrifices that these brave soldiers made and what their families did to support our country during that difficult time. We cannot forget those that have gone before us and this resolution will ensure that we do not. This resolution would not cost anything, just the time we should spend in honor of our veterans and those brave men that gave their lives. On behalf of a grateful

nation, we honor the 40th Anniversary of Hero Street Memorial Park. The service and sacrifice of all who served, and their families, must not be forgotten.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 3079, THE U.S.-PANAMA FREE TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT (PFTA)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3079, the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Promotion Implementation Act.

At House Democrats insistence, the Panama FTA was renegotiated to require Panama to comply with international labor standards and environmental agreements.

Additionally, at the urging of House Democrats, the Obama Administration continued negotiations with Panama and ultimately achieved completion of the U.S.-Panama Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA), ensuring necessary tax transparency and addressing concerns about Panama's status as a tax haven.

This agreement is expected to increase our current trade surplus with Panama, which was \$5.7 billion in 2010, and level the playing field by eliminating Panama's import duties on U.S. goods.

This renegotiated agreement deserves our support, and that is why I vote in favor today.

NATIONAL FOOD DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Food Day and the importance of addressing our hunger crisis in America.

Spearheaded by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Rep. ROSA DELAURIO and Sen. TOM HARKIN, Food Day enlists anti-hunger advocates, physicians, authors, and elected officials to advocate for healthy, affordable food produced in a sustainable, humane way. I am honored to be a member of the Food Day Advisory Board.

While Food Day and its advocates focus on a number of important food-related issues, one that Congress has failed to fully understand is the crisis of hunger. In 2010, 14.5 percent of American households were food insecure, meaning they lacked the capacity to put enough food on their tables.

Several federal programs work in conjunction to prevent hunger. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) keeps 45 million people from going hungry. Over half of SNAP beneficiaries are children, and eight percent are over age 60. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides food assistance to 9 million mothers and children under five years of age. These programs are needed now more than ever.

The Republican Budget, passed in the House with no Democratic support, would cut

\$127 billion from SNAP over the next decade, a 20 percent cut. The House Agriculture Appropriations bill, passed with no Democratic support, would also cut SNAP funding.

The 2011 Continuing Budget Resolution cut WIC by \$504 million, and the 2012 Agriculture Appropriations bill would cut it by an additional \$700 million, or roughly 10 percent.

These are numbers, but they affect real people. I recently received a dozens of messages on paper plates from the Ezra Multi-Service Center in Chicago. The plates answer the question: what would happen if SNAP benefits are cut?

One anonymous client said that if the program is cut it would be impossible for her to feed her four children.

Robert from Chicago said that he has lost everything. "If my benefits were cut I wouldn't eat for a while."

A third client said "if my benefits were cut, I would not be able to eat or sleep. I would have to look in the garbage for food."

In the wealthiest nation on earth, that is simply unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues who are members of the Select Committee on Deficit Reduction not to consider cuts to SNAP, WIC, or other nutrition programs that serve as a lifeline for families struggling to make ends meet. Instead we should look to raise revenues by increasing tax rates on individuals and corporations who can afford to contribute more.

As we work to rein in our deficit, we must ensure that no American is forced to go without food.

NATIONAL FOOD DAY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 24, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today is National Food Day—a full day devoted to all aspects of the American food system: farms, industry, grocers, schools, and most importantly people. One stated goal of Food Day is to "expand access to food and alleviate hunger." Mr. Speaker, it's unconscionable that hunger continues to exist in America. Nearly 50 million Americans go hungry every year. Over 17 million—one third—of them are children. The sad truth is hunger is a reality in every community. There is not one part of America, not one Congressional district, that isn't touched by hunger.

In my own district, as in many others places in America, volunteers help to alleviate hunger. On Saturday, I joined children and their parents in gleaning apples. We picked fresh, healthy fruit from an orchard to be delivered to the local food bank. If not for these volunteers, the apples would go to waste. It's an inevitable part of farming—produce that isn't ripe or is missed in the initial harvest stays on the trees or in the fields—because going back for a second harvest is too costly.

At times volunteering is costly too. Transporting gleaned food to the very people who rely on it takes time and fuel. And we're finding that the transportation costs are becoming a barrier to delivering gleaned food, and this fresh produce is left to rot in the fields instead of helping to feed hungry Americans.

That is why Representative EMERSON and I introduced H.R. 3177, the Hunger Relief